Camp before Quebec April 23d 1776

Dear Sir,

Your favour of yesterday I have received & say in answer, I still hope notwithstanding the infinite number of difficulties of every kind, that we have to encounter, from almost every quarter, that we shall be able finally to prevail — You observe very justly that every piece of duty is undertaken & executed with a strange indifference, that too truely has been the Case, ever since I have been here, indeed it has been an arduous task even to keep the Troops upon the Ground, & I have hardly been able to have a single Order properly executed, almost every day discovers new traitors even in our bosoms who endeavour to frustrate all our designs, I have great reason to mistrust Capt. Pepper I shall therefore send him a prisoner away with his Vessel up the River, he has repeatedly broke his word & disappointed me in business which he has undertaken to perform & from many circumstances I have reason to believe he wished to have omitted

notwithstanding all these discouraging circumstance which are enough to make the heart of a man of sentimen & sensibility bleed for his country – yet let us mak the best of our situation, I am confident that a few days will put a very different face upon our affairs, We certainly shall have in a very few days a large reinforcement of Men Artillery Stores & I hope every thing necessary ~~for our futur~~ operations –

I have Ordered Capt. Palmer to send off from Point au Tremble all the Vessels up the River exc the Maria which I shall immediately man & Arm in such a manner as I hope she will be able to defend herself & perhaps do us some servic below – I shall be much obliged to you if you advise & direct such parties as may be sent to Point au Tremble ~~it~~ in such a manner as you think conducive to the public safety – & all Officers of parties will obey your directions – I am Sir in haste with the greatest esteem & regard your sincere friend & very hble Servt.

Danl McAlister

My Compts. to Mrs McNeil & family

Capt. McNeil

RW 333

MS.Ch.C.6.28